


[Marine Forecasts Home](#)
[News](#)
[Organization](#)
[Search](#)

Landlubber's
forecast:
"City, St" or zip code

[NWS Home](#)
[Parent Office](#)
[Marine and Coastal
Weather Services
Branch](#)
[Items of Interest](#)
[Marine Forecasts
Text, Graphic](#)
[Observations](#)
[Dissemination](#)
[Publications](#)
[Links](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Contacts](#)
[Feedback](#)
[Vote](#)
[Great, Good, Poor](#)
[Be Prepared!](#)

[Boating Safety](#)
[Rip Currents](#)
[Hurricanes](#)
[Thunderstorms](#)
[Lightning](#)
[Coastal Flooding](#)
[Tsunami](#)

National Weather Service Marine Forecasts Voluntary Observations from Mariners

Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Program

The United States VOS Program is organized for the purpose of obtaining weather and oceanographic observations from moving ships. An international program under World Meteorological Organization (WMO) auspices, the VOS program has forty nine countries as participants. The United States program is the largest in the world, with over 900 vessels. Observations are coded in a special format known as the ships synoptic code, or "BBXX" format. They are then distributed on national and international circuits for use by meteorologists in weather forecasting, by oceanographers, ship routing services, fishermen, and many others. The observations are then forwarded for use by the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) in Asheville, North Carolina.

Observations from ships form the basis of marine weather forecasts in coastal, offshore and high seas areas. The program operates at no cost to the vessel, with communications charges, observing equipment and reporting supplies furnished by the National Weather Service. Vessels participating in the VOS program are typically active commercial vessels with licensed crew. For further information on the VOS Program, visit the [VOS Webpage](#) and read the [Mariner's Weather Log Magazine](#).



SKYWARN Program

Many mariners participate in the SKYWARN Program. SKYWARN is a nationwide network of volunteer weather spotters who report to and are trained by the National Weather Service. These spotters report many forms of significant or severe weather such as Severe Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Hail, Heavy Snow, or Flooding. Contact your [local National Weather Service Forecast Office](#) to learn about SKYWARN activities in your area.

MAREP Program

MAREP is a program whereby mariners report current coastal weather conditions in the form of plain language reports to local Weather Forecast Offices producing Coastal Weather Forecasts. Unlike the VOS and SKYWARN programs, pre-registration and training is not usually a prerequisite for participation. Available reporting methods and procedures vary between Forecast Offices. Cellular telephone, HF Marine radio, VHF Marine Radio, Ham Radio, Webforms and e-mail are a few of the communication tools used. Contact your [local National Weather Service Forecast Office](#) to learn about MAREP program activities in your area.

Mariner Reports (MAREPs)

[User Guide Cover Page](#)
[Marine Report User Guide](#)
[Guide to Mariner Reports Brochure](#)

National Weather Service Phone Numbers to Report Marine Observations and Severe Marine Weather (MAREPs)	
Ocean Prediction Center	None
Tropical Prediction Center	None
National Hurricane Center	None

Central Pacific Hurricane Center	808-973-5284
Caribou, ME	None
Portland/Gray, ME	None
Taunton, MA	800-330-1147
New York, NY	800-226-0218
Philadelphia/New Jersey	None
Washington, DC/Maryland	None
Wakefield, VA	757-899-2415
Newport/Morehead City, NC	None
Wilmington, NC	910-762-8724
Charleston, SC	888-383-2024
Jacksonville, FL	800-499-1594
Melbourne, FL	None
Miami, FL	305-229-4528
Key West, FL	305-295-1316 Ext 3
San Juan, PR	787-253-4589
Tampa, FL	800-282-1228
Tallahassee, FL	850-942-8833
Mobile, AL	None
New Orleans, LA	504-522-7730
Lake Charles, LA	337-477-5285
Houston/Galveston, TX	None
Corpus Christi, TX	None
Brownsville, TX	None
Buffalo, NY	866-896-BOAT
Cleveland, OH	None
Detroit/Pontiac, MI	248-625-3309 Ext 468
Gaylord, MI	989-732-6242 Ext 1
Grand Rapids, MI	Preregistration Required
Chicago, IL	815-834-1435 (8AM-8PM)
Northern Indiana, IN	574-834-1104 Ext 286
Milwaukee/Sullivan, WI	Preregistration Required
Green Bay, WI	920-494-7478
Marquette, MI	906-475-5213
Duluth, MN	218-729-6697 Ext 6
Seattle, WA	None
Portland, OR	None
Medford, OR	800-483-4573
Eureka, CA	800-240-3027
San Francisco, CA	800-437-2689
Los Angeles/Oxnard, CA	800-524-6120
San Diego, CA	800-240-3022
Annette, AK	907-886-3241
Barrow, AK	907-852-6484
Bethel, AK	907-543-2236
Cold Bay, AK	907-532-2448
Juneau, AK	877-807-8943
King Salmon, AK	907-246-3303
Kodiak, AK	907-487-2102
Kotzebue, AK	907-442-3231
McGrath, AK	907-524-3177

Nome, AK	907-443-2321
St. Paul Is., AK	907-546-2215
Valdez, AK	907-835-4505
Yakutat, AK	907-784-3322
Honolulu, HI	808-973-5277
Marianas (Guam)	671-472-0952
Micronesia	671-472-0952
American Samoa	684-699-9130

MAROB Program

All Information with Respect to the MAROB Program Are Preliminary and Subject to Revision

The MAROB Program is an experimental voluntary marine observation program of the National Weather Service in the early stages of development. It seeks the participation of all mariners, both commercial and recreational, which are not part of the more in-depth VOS program. It is the goal of the program to collect as many marine observations as practicable, to improve the accuracy of coastal, offshore and high seas forecasts, by taking advantage of technological advancements in digital marine communications.

MAROB observations will be in coded form which can be better ingested, distributed and displayed by forecasters than observations in plain language. The MAROB report format will be identical to VOS coded reports, with the exception that "MAROB" will replace "BBXX". The MAROB program will differ from the VOS Program in at least several other aspects: Although MAROBs will be used by forecasters in forecast decision process, these data will likely not be used directly by computer models; Any communications charges and the cost of any observing equipment will not be reimbursed by the Weather Service; The observation elements collected will typically be a subset of those collected in the full VOS report.

The National Weather Service is in the process of developing cooperative arrangements with organizations such as the [United States Power Squadrons](#), the [U.S. Coast Guard Auxillary](#), the [WinLink 2000 Global Radio Network](#), the [Maritime Mobile Service Network](#), [CruiseEmail.com](#), [Oceans](#), [Sailmail](#), [SkyMate](#), [MarineNet Wireless](#), and the [YOTREP Reporting System](#), to both train observers and forward observations to NWS. Technologies utilized may include cellular telephone, HF Marine radio, MF Marine radio, VHF Marine Radio, Ham Radio, Webforms and e-mail.

In several cases, MAROB reporting schemes will work in conjunction with vessel position reporting systems such as WinLink's [Position Reporter](#), the Maritime Mobile Service Network's [ShipTrak](#), and the [YOTREPs Reporter](#), to enhance the safety of mariners.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details on the MAROB program.

MARS Program

The MARS Program is a voluntary marine observation program of the National Weather Service whereby U.S. Coast Guard Group Stations report marine weather conditions from several shore locations within their operating area. The reports are in an abbreviated plain language format with fixed fields. For further information on the MARS program contact robert.luke@noaa.gov

APRSWXNET/Citizen Weather Observer Program (CWOP)

Originally, APRSWXNET was developed as a way for amateur radio operators to transmit weather data to the NOAA's Forecast Systems Laboratory (FSL) in Boulder, Colorado for research. The success of this effort and the amount of data routinely collected have led to use by other research labs and by operational parts of NOAA including the National Weather Service. The system has also been expanded to allow collection of observations via the Internet, thereby expanding the program to persons not holding an amateur radio license. The program offers the potential of greatly improving the accuracy of marine forecasts and timeliness of warnings. An example would be a network of volunteer automated weather stations installed at marinas and yacht clubs along the coast. For further information, visit the [CWOP Webpage](#)

Nearby CWOP weather data may be retrieved via the Internet as in the following examples where 20902 is the zip code, or the position is 39.1N, 77.1W, or via NOAA's Forecast Systems Laboratory (FSL) [Display of Surface Data](#).

Cooperative Observer Program (COOP)

The National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 11,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are truly representative of where people live, work and play. Although these observations are typically taken over land, they impact the accuracy of Global Forecast Models used in marine forecasting. For further information, visit the [COOP Webpage](#)

Voluntary Mesonets Including the Homeland Security WeatherNet Network

NOAA's Forecast Systems Laboratory (FSL) offers a [Display of Surface Data](#) from several government, commercial and voluntarily operated mesonets as well as observations of those of the [Voluntary Observing Ship \(VOS\) Program](#) and data buoys. Among these mesonets, are [observing systems at several U.S. Coast Guard stations](#) as part of the [Homeland Security WeatherNet Network](#) which is a public-private partnership between [AWS Convergence Technologies](#) and NWS. A variety of marine observations may also be viewed on the [National Ocean Service's nowCOAST Web Portal\(BETA\)](#).

[Home](#), [Parent Office](#), [Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch](#),
[Items of Interest](#), [Forecasts](#), [Observations](#), [Dissemination](#),
[Publications](#), [Links](#), [FAQ](#), [Contacts](#), [Feedback](#)

[National Weather Service](#)
[Office of Climate, Weather, and Water Services](#)
[Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch \(W/OS21\)](#)
Last modified: Jul 06, 2007
[Questions, Comments?](#)

[Disclaimer](#)
[Credits](#)
[Glossary](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)
[About Us](#)
[Career Opportunities](#)